

A DISCUSSION

of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* (or *Doll House*)

Summary of *A Doll's House*

Characters:

Nora Helmer - The central character, who is a "doll" for her husband to dress up, show off, and give direction to. She is childlike, romping easily with her three children.

Torvald Helmer - Nora's husband, a bank manager, who was once gravely ill and needed to go to a southern climate to improve his health.

Dr. Rank - A family friend of the Helmers; he is gravely ill.

Christine Linde - An old family friend of Nora's, Christine is a widow who was once engaged to Nils Krogstad.

Nils Krogstad - A lawyer and moneylender who is a former acquaintance of Torvald's and works at his bank; his position is tenuous there, because he ruined his reputation and career by committing forgery. Dr. Rank calls Krogstad "morally diseased."

Anne - The children's nurse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O48A077rUmI>

The Well Made Play

- careful cause and effect emphasis- "crisis drama"
- opening background information
- dramatic action- foreshadowed
- secret/s known to audience- not characters
- each Act builds to a climactic moment
- obligatory scene- characters confront each other- "showdown"
- plot- usually resolved- no loose ends
- devices- letters, notes used to motivate dramatic action

Groups

1

4

2

5

3

6

Discussion Questions

Each Group is to discuss (and present) how their respective item relates to the construction of the Well-Made Play - *A Doll's House*

- 1- the tarantella
- 2- the bank
- 3- macaroons
- 4- the loan
- 5- bird imagery
- 6- the expected miracle

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